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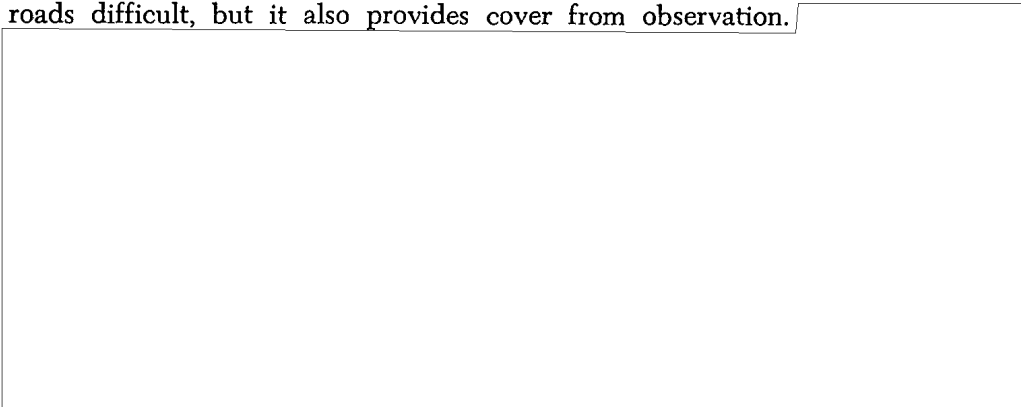
Argentina-Uruguay Border



244. The frontier between Uruguay and Argentina, compared to other frontiers in South America, is densely populated and economically well developed. Although separated by the broad Río de la Plata and its tributary, the Río Uruguay (both as yet unbridged), considerable traffic passes between the two countries via air and water. Smuggling is carried on in both directions, and large quantities of contraband enter the major ports of Montevideo and Buenos Aires and the nearby international airfields from all over the world.

245. The Río de la Plata opens to the Atlantic Ocean as a broad, shallow embayment; it is almost 120 miles wide at its mouth, with stretches between Punta del Este, Uruguay, and Cabo San Antonio, Argentina. The river is navigable for oceangoing vessels over the entire 200-mile distance from its mouth to its juncture with the Río Uruguay, although deep-draft ships must use dredged channels to reach the principle ports of Montevideo, Buenos Aires, and La Plata.

246. The Uruguayan coast facing the Río de la Plata consists mostly of flat to rolling plains fringed by long, sandy beaches; in a few places isolated hills rise above the plains, and rocky headlands interrupt the beaches. The coastal segment from Punta del Este to Montevideo is a popular resort and residential area, with good roads paralleling the shoreline. The beaches are backed in many sections by low bluffs; this makes the movement of contraband inland to the roads difficult, but it also provides cover from observation.



247. In addition to the major port of Montevideo, small ports are located at Punta del Este, Piriapolis, Juan L. Lacaze, Carmelo, and Colonia. The latter is particularly significant as the terminus for regular and frequent ferry service to and from Buenos Aires and because of its free port facilities.

248. On the Argentine side of the Río de la Plata there are few good beaches. The Bahía de Samborombón, immediately west of Cabo San Antonio, is fronted